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World tension can be eased in 1954

The information reaching us at the beginning of the new year and which we are passing on to National Committees in this Bulletin, shows that the campaign launched in response to the appeal of the World Council is at a new stage of development, particularly in the countries of Western Europe, South-East Asia, the Middle East and Latin America.

This campaign for peaceful objectives, closely related to the national interests of each people, is stimulating the great movement of opinion for solutions which will relax tension; this movement is continuing everywhere.

The new factors that have appeared during these last few weeks spotlight the need to pursue energetically the activity already begun. The most important of these events are: the pressure being brought to bear to accelerate the ratification and application of documents which would sanction the rearmament of West Germany; the opposition kept up to delay the settlement of the Korean question; the refusal to negotiate an end of the war in Viet-Nam; and the setting-up of foreign military bases in various parts of the world.

However, important victories have just been won through the pressure of public opinion. The USA and the Soviet Union have started preliminary talks on the question of atomic energy and the meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Four Great Powers is being held in Berlin.

The announcement of this Conference raised a great hope in the hearts of all men and women. It is the first of its kind to be held for three years. By clearing the way to a peaceful settlement of the German question, it can take a first step towards eliminating the present international tension; it can also hasten the holding of a further meeting, this time of the Five Great Powers, in conformity with the wishes of all people.

But the hope awakened by the prospect of this meeting must, if it is not to be disappointed, be accompanied by great vigilance. We have heard certain intentions voiced which would create a deadlock at the meeting, as was the case at the preceding Conference held at the Palais Rose in Paris in 1951. Failure engineered in this way would prolong the Cold War and enable its protagonists to claim that direct negotiation between the Great Powers is useless and can be of no help in the easing of international tension.

Thus an attempt would be made to confuse the public and deflect it from the action necessary to bring about an eventual meeting of the Five Great Powers.

The Appeal to the Peoples, issued by the World Council at its Budapest session calling upon them to foil the manœuvres of those who wish to prevent or delay agreement, assumes its full meaning today because the success of all current negotiations as well as those about to begin are absolutely dependent on the action of the peoples.

Efforts to speed the peaceful settlement of the major international issues are today being made by the Peace Movement and by important groups of personalities and organisations who believe it is possible and necessary to reach agreements acceptable to all. These efforts have one and the same goal—to achieve a real lessening of tension.

In the months to come the International Meeting proposed by the World Council can and must become an important factor for *détente*. The activities developing on the national level and the convergence of views resulting therefrom make possible the joint preparation of this great Meeting. They are preparing the ground for a victory whereby world tension can be eased in 1954.

IN THIS BULLETIN

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Strong opposition in countries of South-east Asia and Middle East to US-Pakistan military pact.

Conference in Defence of the Rights of the Peoples of the Middle East. Information on the movement for an easing of tension in Belgium, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Japan, Brazil, Uruguay, Canada, Sweden and Indonesia.

GREAT & GROWING MOVEMENT

The campaign launched by the National Peace Movement in France is developing around the following objectives:

The rejection of the Bonn and Paris Agreements or any other form of the revival of German militarism and the victory of a negotiated solution of the German question by an agreement between the Four Powers.

An end to the war in Viet-Nam by opening negotiations with the Government of Ho Chi Minh.

French moves to get the Powers to settle their differences by agreements acceptable to all, thus bringing about a real easing of international tension.

This campaign has stimulated a great movement of opinion, as reflected in the ever more frequent declarations by elected bodies, big national organisations and various public figures.

Municipal councils and mayors

Hundreds of Municipal Councils of all political compositions have taken a stand on one or more of the three objectives of the Movement; they include those of big cities and towns like Paris, Nice, Cannes, Carcassonne, Narbonne, Belfort, Valence, Montélimar, Brest, Quimper, Saint-Etienne, Evian and so on.

Hundreds of mayors (50 in the Department of Loir-et-Cher, 30 in the Landes, 60 in Charente-Maritime, 53 in Lot-et-Garonne, etc.) and municipal councillors of all political opinions (485 in the Department of Seine-et-Marne, 105 in Lot-et-Garonne, etc.) have also expressed their agreement with these points.

General councils

Many General Councils—these are Departmental councils, also composed of members of all Parties—have spoken along the same lines. They include those of the Seine, Aisne, Alpes-Maritimes, Aude, Cher and Drôme Departments.

Big national organisations

The French Union of Ex-servicemen's Associations (UFAC), which has two million members, and 34 of its Departmental sections have announced their opposition to any revival of German militarism.

Many Congresses of ex-POWs have also taken this position. The recent Congress of the League for Human Rights declared its opposition to the European Defence Community and demanded the immediate opening of negotiations with President Ho Chi Minh.

Universities

80 famous university people, men of Science, the Arts and Law, Professors at the Sorbonne, at the Collège de France and at the Museum, including some of the most famous intellectuals in France, have just signed a Manifesto against German rearmament. More and more people are signing it every day.

Engineers and jurists

French engineers and technicians, including M. Bernard Lafaille, Jean Dourgnon, J. Dumas-Primbault and John Nicoletis have launched an Appeal for a National Conference against the EDC to be held in January 1954. It is gaining support every day. At a recent meeting in Paris eminent jurists gave the reasons for their opposition to the treaty setting up the EDC. Among them were M. Viraut, former member of the Bar Association; Professor Pinto of the Faculty of Law in the University of Lille; M. Auburtin, Vice-President of the Paris Municipal Council; and M. Moro Giafferi and M. Michel Bruguier.

Politicians

At the great rallies organised by the Peace Movement last Autumn politicians and Deputies of all Parties made a public declaration of their opposition to the Bonn and Paris agreements. They included M. Daladier, President of the Rally of Left Republicans (R.G.R.); M. Fromet, Secretary of the Radical Party; Messrs. Béné and Gaspard of the Radical Party; Messrs. Hamon and André Denis of the Popular Republican Movement (MRP); Messrs. Louis Marin, Moynet and Maupoil (Independents); Messrs. Michelet, Deliaune, Milh, Lyautey, Bignon, Brusset and Léon Noel of the Republican Union for Social Action (URAS); Messrs. Briffold and Gregory of the Socialist Party; and Dr. Rousseau of the Rally of the French People (RPF).

M. Edouard Herriot, President of the Radical and Radical-Socialist Party, was represented at one of these Rallies by M. Vienney, his Assistant, as Mayor of Lyons.

(The President of the Popular Republican Movement is M. Georges Bidault and that of the Rally of the French People [RPF] is General De Gaulle. The Republican Union for Social Action is composed of former members of the Rally of the French People. The Independents are conservative in their views.)

Among the peasants

On the initiative of the Peasants' National Committee for the Defence of Peace and Agriculture it was planned to hold 41 Departmental Congresses between November 1953 and March 1954. Some have already been held and others are in preparation. These events are prepared for by regional appeals from peasant leaders of all tendencies. For example, the Appeal launched for the Lot-et-Garonne Rally received the public support of 200 personalities, including 60 presidents of agricultural trade unions and co-operatives, 53 Mayors of rural communes and 105 Municipal Councillors.

Opening of signature campaign

A signature campaign against the Bonn and Paris agreements is going on at the present time in 70 out of the 89 Departments of France. Two million signatures had already been collected by the end of last year, while certain Departments—those of the Nord, Pas-de-Calais and Seine, for example—have set themselves a target of a million signatures by the end of January.

This campaign is being taken into the factories where it is receiving the almost unanimous support of the workers, whatever their trade union and even if they are unorganised. For example, between 90 and 100 per cent of the workers of 53 factories in the city of Marseilles have signed.

IN FRANCE

against ratification of Bonn and Paris agreements

for an immediate end to war in Viet-Nam

Public figures of all opinions declare their joint opposition to Bonn and Paris agreements

The National Conference on the German Problem, held in Paris on November 8th last, called for "a great national awakening" against the Bonn and Paris agreements and resolutely condemned "a surrender which would have terrible consequences for Peace and for the country."

In addition to the personalities already mentioned, this Conference was attended by M. Etienne Nouveau, Vice-President of the French Union of Ex-servicemen (UFAC); M. Henri Bouret, MRP Deputy; M. Gilbert de Chambrun, a progressive Deputy; Professor Bernard Lavergne; M. Riès, Secretary of the Seine District of the League of Human Rights; General Le Corguillé; M. René Capitant, former Minister and member of the RPF; M. Pierre Villon, Communist Deputy; M. Charles Hernu, President of the Jacobin Club; Father Jutet; Professor Jacques Madaule; M. Jean-Marie Domenach, Editor of the review "Esprit," and so on.

Others demand end to war in Viet-Nam

The National Conference for Negotiation in Indo-China, held in Paris on November 22nd, adopted a resolution stating that negotiation between the French Government and the Government of Ho Chi Minh is necessary and possible. This resolution rejects any attempt to internationalise the war and "demands that the Government undertake the negotiations necessary to establish Peace and obtain an immediate ceasefire and armistice."

Besides the many people already mentioned, the following took part in the Conference: M. Maurice Lacroix, President of the "Young Republic"; M. Kriegel-Valrimont, Communist Deputy; M. Gilles Martinet, Editor of the "Observateur"; M. Jacques Mitterand, Counsellor of the French Union; M. Jacques Nantet, member of the Committee of Left Independents; Professor Marcel Ner, former Director of Education in Indo-China; M. Jean Pouillon, from the Editorial Board of the review, "Temps Modernes"; Pastor Francis Bosc, from the National Executive Committee of the Peace Movement; M. Louis Barin, Professor at the School of Oriental Languages; M. Belorgey, representing the Socialist Students, and so on.

National unity is being realised around a single objective

Two particularly significant examples show that France is on the way to achieving national unity in opposition to the Bonn and Paris agreements.

In the Department of Dordogne, where more than 100 meetings were held in preparation for a Rally which took place on November 22nd, an appeal to the people has just been issued for the collection of 120,000 signatures against the Bonn and Paris Agreements by March 1st. This Appeal was jointly issued by the Departmental Secretary of the Peace Movement, the District Secretary of the Communist Party, the District Secretary of the Popular Republican Movement (MRP), the Departmental Delegate of the Rally of the French People (RPF) and the Socialist mayor of an important town in the Department.

In Vendée, a Rally held in the administrative centre elected a Standing Committee to co-ordinate the activity of more than 200 localities against the Bonn and Paris agreements. It is composed of members of the Socialist, Communist, Radical and Popular Republican Parties, of the General Confederation of Agriculture and Associations of Ex-servicemen, POWs, etc. . . .

Basing itself on these various activities and expressions of opinion, the French Peace Movement is now preparing to hold big regional assemblies in every Department. They will lead up to a great national demonstration to be held on April 24th and 25th.

The breadth of the movement of opinion around the various objectives for which action has been started assures us that there will be a broad French delegation at the great International Meeting proposed by the World Council of Peace.

Belgian people's opposition to EDC reflected in all political circles

The Belgian Union for the Defence of Peace is continuing its referendum on the question of EDC. It is being carried out in certain factories and districts, in many places in the form of a secret ballot.

The latest results come from 63 localities. Out of 30,871 voters 23,965 or 77.5 per cent voted against EDC. Only 698 voted for; the others abstained.

As part of this campaign demonstrations and meetings were held at which M. Charles Hernu (France) and Sgr. Giuseppe Nitti and Sgr. Giacometti (Italy) spoke. This shows the possibility of co-operation between the Peace Movements of the different countries of Europe.

When the vote on the ratification of the Paris Treaty was taken in the Chamber, 49 Deputies voted against and three abstained. They included Communist Deputies, half of the Socialist Group and Deputies of all parties.

The present President of the Senate, M. Paul Struye (Social Christian Party), has also stated his opposition to the ratification of EDC.

These facts are a reflection of the Belgian people's opposition to the plans for the remilitarisation of Germany. M. Henri Rolin, former President of the Senate, Socialist Senator and Belgian delegate to the Strasbourg Assembly, defined the reasons for this opposition in an interview given to the review *"Defense de la Paix."*

"Personally, I am opposed to the ratification of the EDC treaty. I can see in it both a terrible aggravation of the danger of war and a weakening of our means of defence...

"If the EDC were to come into force it would shut the door for a long time to any rapprochement between East and West."

M. Rolin then went on to show that the ratification of EDC would lead the German Federal Republic to try and win its territorial demands by force. He said:

"Already there are many statements by Americans and Germans proclaiming this aim. Such a situation would very likely lead to war in a very short time . . .

"The stationing on French, Belgian or Dutch soil, less than ten years after the occupation, of big German units and the welcome they would get from former collaborators can only arouse the hostility of public opinion."

"OUR TASK IS TO MAKE THE FOUR POWER TALKS SUCCEED"

Statement issued by the Executive of the British Peace Committee

The meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Four Great Powers in Berlin on January 25th is a further, big victory of the Peace forces which ceaselessly demand the easing of international tension and the solution of differences by negotiation and agreement.

In an important statement which it has just issued, the British Peace Committee points out that this Conference is a tribute to the demand of the peoples and calls on the latter not to relax their vigilance in order that the meeting may reach a peaceful solution of the German question, thereby bringing about a real easing of international tension.

Here is the complete text of this important document:

"The agreement reached to begin the meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Four Great Powers in Berlin on January 25th brings new hope for Peace to the people of the world.

"The decision to hold this conference is a triumph for all those who have been working for better relations between the Powers.

"It is a tribute to the strength of the mounting public demand for Negotiation and Agreement between the Nations to which the work of the Peace Movement has made so great a contribution.

"Now the task is to make the talks succeed. Again the success will depend on public opinion.

"The main obstacle is the openly declared intention, of the Government of the USA with British support to bring Germany into a Military Alliance with the West. This means reviving German Militarism.

"To seek to impose this policy against the wishes of the great majority of the people will endanger the success of this Conference. We must guard against attempts to poison the atmosphere by 'incidents' or the spreading of highly coloured stories in the newspapers of one side about the other.

"Britain's future demands an agreed peaceful solution to the German problem and the unification of Germany in a way acceptable to all Germany's neighbours and to the German people.

"This will open the way to Four Power Agreement and to a future of Peace for the people of Germany, of Europe and of the world.

"It can be achieved only by preventing a revival of German Militarism in any form.

"The Four Power Conference on Germany can lead to a meeting of the Five Great Powers including the People's Republic of China at which wider questions causing International Tension can be discussed.

"We call on all organisations and on every man and woman to take part in the greatest campaign the country has ever witnessed in defence of Britain's future and Peace.

"Pour in a flood of resolutions, postcards and telegrams to the Foreign Secretary and every Member of Parliament.

"Insist that the Foreign Secretary goes to the Meeting with the firm intention to reach agreement.

"Insist that the treaties setting up a European Army and reviving German militarism are scrapped."

PASTOR NIEMOLLER TAKES PART IN IMPORTANT WEST BERLIN DEMONSTRATION FOR SUCCESS OF FOUR POWER CONFERENCE

A meeting of importance for the success of the Four Power Conference and the peaceful solution of the German problem was held in West Berlin on January 7th. It took place in the Great Hall of the Prelates in Schöneberg in the American sector and because of the great crowd the police had the doors shut half-an-hour before the beginning.

During the meeting Pastor Niemoller spoke on the theme: "The Four Power Conference and the Future of Germany." After pointing out the threat to Peace of German militarism and the great anxiety that the remilitarisation of West Germany is causing to Germany's neighbours and to the world, Pastor Niemoller declared:

"The incorporation of West Germany in the Western world is not being carried out for love of the Federal Republic but because they need German soldiers.

"The aim of the Four Power Conference should be to eliminate this source of danger in the heart of Europe. Public opinion, which enforced the armistice in Korea, demands that the politicians make some progress at this meeting in Berlin. The common interest of the Soviet Union and France in preventing a German aggression is a factor of importance for the success of the Conference."

"It is important," Pastor Niemoller concluded, *"to create, throughout Germany, an atmosphere which will facilitate agreement between the Great Powers on the unity of Germany."*

The speech of the President of the Church of Hesse was warmly applauded by the audience. During the discussion which followed many Berliners, including young people, Churchmen and artists, voiced the opinion of the people which is that everything must be done to safeguard Peace and ensure the success of the Four Power Conference.

"THE FIGHT AGAINST THE BONN AND PARIS AGREEMENTS IS A COMMON FIGHT"

says message from the German Peace Rally to Germany's neighbours

The above declaration was made in a message from the German Peace Rally to the countries bordering on Germany.

More than 1,200 delegates from all over East and West Germany attended the German Peace Rally held in Weimar from December 10th to 12th last, at which representatives of the National Peace Movements of 15 countries were also present. They included Belgium, France, Britain, the USSR, Czechoslovakia, Austria, Poland, Switzerland, Luxembourg, Finland, Denmark and Sweden.

In a message adopted at this important meeting the German Peace Rally expresses its gratitude for the efforts of the Peace forces in the neighbouring countries to bring about a peaceful settlement of the German question. It says:

"We German men and women at this meeting in Weimar understand the grave anxiety of Germany's neighbours at the revival of German militarism. We share their anxiety. The fight against the Bonn and Paris agreements, which are a threat to the German people, their neighbours and world Peace, is our common fight.

"It is our duty to let the forthcoming Four Power Conference in Berlin know that the whole German people ardently desire the re-establishment of German unity and a Peace treaty to ensure the peaceful and democratic development of our country. Such a Germany will serve the cause of Peace, eliminate tension in Europe and guarantee the security of the neighbouring peoples.

"We therefore ask the Peace-loving forces of all neighbouring countries to support this legitimate demand of our people."

Luxembourg - National Conference of Peace Movement decides to hold

REFERENDUM ON EDC

The National Conference of the Luxembourg Peace Movement, held in Luxembourg on December 12th, passed a resolution protesting against the EDC and Luxembourg's incorporation in it. It noted that the Council of State had declared the treaty to be contrary to Luxembourg's Constitution.

The conference called for a campaign of referenda to be held in the factories and the big parishes during the month of January, in order to let the Deputies know the opposition of the people of Luxembourg to the EDC treaty. *"This treaty,"* the resolution points out, *"would seriously endanger our country, not only from the national standpoint but also on the economic, social and cultural planes."*

In an interview with the Secretary of the Luxembourg Peace Movement, which was subsequently published in the Movement's bulletin, the great Luxembourg writer, Marcel Noppeney, takes a clear stand on the danger of the remilitarisation of Germany.

The author of *"Against Them"* believes that the EDC agreements would hurl the world into another war and states that he would, "before dying," like to warn his contemporaries of "the great German threat."

In the call issued for this campaign the Swiss Peace Movement declares:

"In our country's interest, in the interest of the German people themselves, we call upon all Swiss to exercise the greatest vigilance in order to prevent the return of disaster. United, they can frustate the plans of German militarism—by signing the petition we are issuing and in asking our authorities by this means to do nothing which might directly or indirectly help the remilitarisation of Western Germany (by the delivery of armaments, for example, or the investment in the German arms industry). They can do so by asking the authorities to place all our country's moral authority behind any effort to reach a peaceful settlement of the German question."

SWISS PETITION AGAINST REMILITARISATION OF WEST GERMANY

At the present time a petition campaign against the rearmament of West Germany is being carried on throughout Switzerland. The Swiss Peace Movement has made a pledge to collect 20,000 signatures by the time of the National Conference organised by the Swiss Peace Parliament. It will be held in Basle at the end of January on the subject:

"The German Question and Swiss Security."

THE STRUGGLE OF THE ITALIAN PEOPLE

against the European Defence Community

FOR AN EASING OF TENSION AND PEACE

Regional meetings for the easing of tension and Peace have been held in Milan, Bologna, Florence, Ancona, Genoa, Turin and Perugia. Among those taking part, in addition to the top leaders of the Peace Movement, were well-known people of various views and delegates from organisations and mass associations. They discussed the principles of an Italian policy for the easing of tension—peaceful trade relations with all countries; opposition to EDC and to US interference in Italian affairs. These meetings showed that the movement for the easing of tension and Peace is growing on the basis of the Italian people's desire for a peaceful life. We quote, as an example, an extract from the resolution passed unanimously by the Emilia and Romagna Meeting which was held in Bologna on December 20th:

"At a time when the World Council of Peace announces the holding, in 1954, of a world meeting of the representatives of all trends of opinion desiring Peace, we pledge that we, in our region, will strive for calm discussion and friendly agreement with all who sincerely want the principle of honest negotiation to prevail, while respecting absolutely the opinion of each."

Similar meetings will now be held in other provinces and districts of Italy.

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The real cause of the Government crisis in Italy is the problem of the ratification of EDC. Therefore the Italian Peace Movement has decided to launch a broad campaign to warn the public of the danger to the country represented by the EDC agreements and to demand a solution of the crisis in line with the Italian people's desire for Peace.

In all the towns and even in the villages, the Peace Movement's speakers are holding meetings and taking part in big mass demonstrations from one end of the country to the other. This campaign led by the Peace Movement is everywhere meeting with the warm support of all sections of society and meetings, whether in town or country, factory or office, are adopting agendas and resolutions calling for a Government which will do something to ease tension and bring about Peace and demanding that Parliament reject the EDC treaties. Such resolutions are being sent in their hundreds to the President of the Republic, the Presidents of the Chamber and the Senate and the leaders of the various political parties. The wave of protest is increasing every day.

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Another aspect of the Peace Movement's campaign in Italy is the struggle against military bases. In different parts of the country there are already naval and air bases in US hands. The recent decision to construct a huge military aerodrome near Ravenna in Romagna has met with the opposition of the overwhelming majority of the people. It is considered as a direct threat to this historic town which suffered so much in the last war. Its citizens and the peasants of the surrounding district have several times protested at the construction of this aerodrome for the US forces. At a big demonstration on January 3rd, Senator Emilio Sereni had this to say on the project:

"Our internal social conflicts are not so serious as to bring about the destruction of our country and civilisation. What really threatens our life and traditions is foreign military occupation, and this would be the natural consequence of the erection of this NATO air base and the creation of the European Army. The latter would deprive us of our national army. Now, US foreign policy consists in sending occupation troops to other countries. We must fear this policy and fight it because sooner or later it would plunge us back into the harsh experiences we went through in the past."

In his speech Senator Sereni showed the relation between the construction of the Ravenna air base and the vaster US plans for another war. At the heart of this policy of war preparation lies EDC and the consequent rearmament of Germany.

"Recent events in Korea have shown that the strength of the Peace Movement lies in our great numbers. We must be as strong in the coming weeks," M. Sereni concluded, to loud and long applause, *"when the notorious EDC treaty is brought up for discussion in Parliament."*

STRONG OPPOSITION TO US-PAKISTAN MILITARY PACT OF SOUTH-EAST ASIA AND THE

"Colleagues, friends and friendship with other countries not foreign armies" *says Pandit Nehru*

In the course of a speech in the Lower Chamber of the Indian Parliament in which he criticised any proposed military pact between the USA and Pakistan, Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru had this to say:

"The first thing that occurs to me when I think of any military aid freely given from a country of the West to any country of the East, is the past history of Asia—history of the past 3-400 years—the history of colonial domination gradually coming in here and establishing itself. Then I see after these 3-400 years the dominated countries of Asia becoming independent. Then I see some development which seems to me to reverse this process of freedom, which again brings to my mind the period when foreign armies came to Asia.

"I react very strongly against anything that brings back that process, even though it may be in a small measure. I do not want protection from others. I want colleagues, friends, and we have sought them, and we have worked for the friendship of other countries.

"We do not want any people to protect us with their armies, navies and air-forces, because we know by long and bitter experience that such protection becomes something else. Because, even the act of asking for protection—seeking it—makes us dependent. We seek goodwill and we shall continue to seek the goodwill of others, but we are not going to ask any country to defend us with its armies . . ."

The Premier of Kashmir

The Premier of Kashmir, Bakshi Ghulam Mohammed, stated at a public meeting in Bhadarwah (120 miles North of Srinagar), on December 15th:

"The United States is much mistaken if she thinks she will get a Formosa on the Indian sub-continent." The pending US-Pakistan military alliance *"only confirms the US conspiracy in Kashmir which was exposed and nullified by the people here last August,"* he said and warned the USA that its *"fresh attempt to grab Kashmir will meet the same fate as did the first one."*

The Premier of Afghanistan

The Premier of Afghanistan, Sardar Mohammad Khan, said on December 31st that he considered the proposed US-Pakistan pact to be *"a grave danger to the security and Peace of Afghanistan."*

The C-in-C of the Egyptian Army

The Commander-in-Chief of the Egyptian Army, Major-General Abdel Hakim Amer, writing in the newspaper, *"Al Goumhouria,"* recently, said:

"As to Pakistan, I believe no Islamic State would do something which might affect all other Islamic nations before measuring the extent of the harm and benefit which this act might bring to the Islamic peoples in general.

"Moreover, I am strongly of the opinion that co-ordination of policies of the Arab-Islamic nations is absolutely necessary if the honour and dignity of the Arab peoples are to be maintained. Any agreement or commitment not based on this principle will prejudice all these nations."

A great Arab poet

The great Arab poet, Mahdi Al Jawahiri from Iraq, a member of the World Council of Peace, in a signed editorial in the Baghdad daily, *"Al Raie Al Am"*, on December 27th, wrote:

"...The nations such as Free India, which have tasted emancipation from the yoke of imperialism, will not submit to new military commitments nor allow themselves to be dismembered or destroyed by military rings approaching their frontiers."

Press reactions

Press criticism and downright condemnation of the projected military pact has been manifested, not only in newspapers of various political complexions throughout South-east Asia but also in those of the Middle East. For example, the following newspapers have condemned the proposed pact editorially:

PAKISTAN: *"Pakistan Times."*
INDIA: *"Bombay Blitz"*; *"National Herald"* and *"Nay Zamana"*.
CEYLON: "Ceylon Times"; *"Ceylon Observer"* and *"Thinakaran"* (Tamil daily).
BURMA: *"Burman"* of Rangoon.
INDONESIA: *"Abadi"* (organ of the Indonesian Muslim Masjumi Party) and *"Pamadangan"*.
SINGAPORE: *"Singapore Standard"* (influencial Chinese-owned daily).
AFGHANISTAN: *"Anis."*
IRAQ: *"Al Ittihad"*; *"Al Akhbar"*; *"Alizza"*; *"Saut Al Ahali"* and *"Al Shaad"*.
TURKEY: *"Yeni Ullus."*
EGYPT: *"Al Kahira"*; *"Il Mussawar"* and *"Al Tahrir"*.

Protests by various public figures and bodies

In India

At a meeting presided over by *Dr. Saifuddin Kitchlew* in New Delhi, on December 24th, any US-Pakistan military alliance was condemned in a statement which said that it would be *"a flagrant violation of the UN Charter, would bring the Cold War right up to our borders and jeopardise Peace and stability in Asia."*

Major-General Sir Sahib Singh Sokhey said that this project *"has brought the Cold War to our very door and is fraught with great danger to the whole of South-east Asia including Pakistan herself."*

Dr. Mulk Raj Anand, world renowned author and Vice-President of the All-India Peace Council, stated at a Press Conference in Nagpur, earlier in the month:

"The proposed US-Pakistan military alliance is a new threat to world Peace and a menace to India's sovereignty. We must work hard to foil this threat."

Statements have been issued by prominent local figures and large protest meetings held in Mandyi, Cutch District (North-west coast of India); Indore (central India) and in Pagwara in the Punjab.

In Kashmir

Mr. Sadiq, President of the Kashmir Constituent Assembly, stated on December 19th that such a pact would *"compromise our liberty"* and he called upon his people to be on their guard against *"the new situation which would thus be created."*

In Nepal

Grave concern has been expressed over the projected pact by the leaders of several political parties:

D. R. Regmi, President of the Nepali National Congress has declared:

"The US attempt to gain a foothold in Pakistan through military aid to that country does surely threaten the freedom of the entire South-east Asia and it will bring Nepal into the potential war zone... Pakistan's frontier is almost contiguous with Nepal's at one place. Nepal cannot sit by indifferent to these undesirable developments in Pakistan..."

Mahendra Bikram Shah, Vice-president of the National Democratic Party and *Tanka Prasad Acharya,* General Secretary of Nepal Praja Parishan (People's Assembly), has also expressed concern over the pact.

In Sind

Altaf Hussain, a trade union leader, has declared that the alliance would be a serious menace to the Peace and prosperity of Pakistan.

IN COUNTRIES MIDDLE EAST

Numerous protests in Eastern Pakistan

Meanwhile, throughout Pakistan itself the protests are increasing following the lead given by the Pakistan Peace Committee. *Sahibzadi Mahmuda Decum,* Chairman of the Pakistani Women's Peace Organisation called upon the women of Pakistan to oppose the pact, in a statement issued on December 14th. It was an attempt to *"make Asians fight Asians,"* she said. The women of Pakistan must unite and oppose any attempt to turn their country into a battlefield or to pressgang their sons and brothers into the army to fight on behalf of foreign interests.

In *East Bengal* a number of well-known political leaders in Dacca, the capital of the province, sent a declaration to the Press calling upon the Pakistan Government not to conclude any military alliance with the USA as this would imperil the sovereignty and independence of the country.

"Such an alliance will entangle Pakistan in a devastating war," says the statement. *"It will endanger Peace and prosperity and create serious obstacles in the nation-building works of our new State."*

Among those who signed were:

Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani, President of the East Pakistan Awami Muslim League; Professor *Haji Muhammad Danesh,* President of the Peasants' Association of East Bengal and *Muhammad Shahidulla,* Organising Secretary of the Peasants' and Workers' Party of Pakistan.

Early in December, a mass rally was held in Dacca demanding peaceful co-existence with other countries and no military alliance with any country.

A resolution was recently adopted by the Peace Committee of Barisal (at the mouth of the Ganges) protesting against any military alliance and calling upon the East Pakistan Peace Committee to organise a signature campaign in support of a Five Power Pact and the settlement of international issues through negotiation.

"WHOEVER AGREES WITH A SINGLE POINT OF OUR PROGRAMME CAN CO-OPERATE WITH US"

Statement of Japanese Peace Movement at its December Congress

The National Congress of the Japanese Peace Movement was held in Tokio on December 14th and 15th, 1953. It was attended by 740 delegates from all parts of Japan and all walks of life—workers, peasants, students, intellectuals, businessmen and industrialists. The various political trends were also widely represented; there were members of the Worker-Farmer Party, the Communist Party, the Socialist Party and well-known Conservatives like Mr. *Akasi Kazama.*

After Mr. *Ikuo Oyama* had presented a report on his several months of travel to various countries, Mr. *Tokasaburo Dan* reported on the work of the Vienna session of the World Council of Peace.

Many delegates spoke during the discussion, in particular Mr. *Kihashiro Kimura,* a Worker-Farmer Party M.P., Mr. *Toshio Kuroda* and *Kozo Inomata,* a Left-wing Socialist M.P.

The Congress adopted an important resolution opposing Prime Minister Yoshida's plan. It stressed the following three points:

Improvement of living-standards and transformation of the war economy into a peacetime economy.

Opposition to the policy of strength.

Solution of international differences by negotiation.

"We realise," the resolution declares, *"that our present difficulties, the poor health standards of our people and the deterioration of our public education are the direct results of rearmament, the creation of mercenary armed forces, the increase in the number of military bases, the stationing of foreign troops in our country and the restrictions imposed on trade with the Soviet Union and China. It is in obedience to US demands that the rearmament of our country is growing daily, that the young people are drawn into the army and that there is an openly expressed intention to modify our Constitution in the only remaining articles safeguarding Peace.*

"We know, too, that if war broke out, our country would be reduced to ashes by atom and hydrogen bombs and most of our families would be slain by them. We do not intend to await this event. We see the international horizon clearing. The war in Korea was ended by negotiations. The possibility of putting an end to the war in Viet Nam is growing as a result of President Ho Chi Minh's statements and public support for the ending of the war. These facts and the increasing number of voices demanding the solution of international differences by negotiation demonstrate the increasing power of the movement against the policy of strength.

"If we replace the policy of strength by negotiation, any country can live in friendship with other countries. Let us tomorrow start spreading this conviction among the masses of the people, calling on them to safeguard our peaceful life which is guaranteed by the Constitution, to resist the policy of military bases and the setting up of mercenary armed forces.

"The forces of Peace pledge that they will only cease their struggle when friendly co-operation between all countries has been attained. We call upon all Peace-loving people in our country to take up this struggle, whatever their political views, their profession or their religious beliefs, and to unite their efforts in the cause of Peace."

After elaborating the three main points emphasised by the Congress and stating that they *"must be solved by negotiation,"* the resolution of the National Congress of the Japanese Peace Movement ends with these words:

"We are ready to co-operate with anyone who agrees with us on any of these points.

"Unite to prevent another war!"

National Congress for Safeguarding "Peace Constitution" opens February 15th in Japan

On December 19th, a few days after the Congress of the Japanese Peace Movement, 130 prominent citizens met to organise "A National Meeting for the Safeguarding of the 'Peace Constitution'" and adopted a resolution opposing any amendment of the constitution and thereby the Yoshida Government's plan for re-armament.

A preparatory committee presided over by a former Prime Minister, Mr. *Tetsu Katayama,* was elected to prepare for the holding on February 15th, of a "National Congress for the Protection and Safeguarding of the 'Peace Constitution'" at which the various ideologies will be represented and in which people of all political and social backgrounds will take part.

THE CONFERENCE IN DEFENCE OF THE

The first Conference in Defence of the Rights of the Peoples of the Middle East took place in Beirut on December 18th and 19th. The peoples of Iran, Egypt, Iraq, Syria, the Lebanon, Transjordan, Saudi Arabia and the Hadhramaut sent a hundred delegates from all walks of life—workers, peasants, students, women, intellectuals and scientists.

Public figures representing various trends of opinion—former Prime Ministers, former Ministers, Members of Parliament, religious leaders, tribal chiefs, delegates from the Nationalist, Progressive and Communist Parties, the Moslem Brotherhood and the Peace Movement—took part in the Conference which was called by a group of well-known Iranian citizens.

Peoples of Middle East forge united front to strengthen their co-operation

The Conference set up an Executive Committee to put into operation the decisions taken and issued a Manifesto which was unanimously adopted. The latter stressed the fact that, although the delegates held very different political views, they nevertheless reached the same conclusion, namely, that all the nations of the Middle East:

"are threatened by the same imperialist plans aimed at dragging our countries into adventures which are not in their interest. These plans are aggravating international tension and are a danger to the Peace of the world. The most dangerous are those for the creation of a system of joint defence and for an alliance between Pakistan, Iran, Turkey, Iraq and the USA, along with similar plans, open or concealed, like Truman's 'Point 4' and Johnston's scheme. The iniquitous agreements forced on certain of our peoples are still in existence and are throttling their national independence and sovereignty. There are still military bases and occupation troops in North Africa, Libya, Egypt, Transjordan, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and other parts of the Arab peninsula. They are a threat to the security of the Middle East."

"It is universally believed," the Manifesto continues, "that the Palestine problem is the result of imperialist domination and its solution is bound up with the elimination of this domination.

"The delegates of Transjordan, Iran, Hadhramaut, Syria, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, the Lebanon and Egypt, with the support of the peoples of North Africa and the Persian Gulf, have reached complete agreement on the need to strengthen their co-operation in the struggle by forging a united front."

A common programme for Independence and Peace

The 14 points of the common programme adopted include:

The rejection of any treaty, pact or military bloc which would threaten the Peace and security of the countries of the Middle East.

The annulment of military, economic or cultural pacts and treaties which are an infringement of the sovereignty and independence of these peoples.

The evacuation of foreign troops from the Arab countries.

The solution of all international conflicts and differences by peaceful methods and based on respect for the independence and sovereignty of the peoples.

The establishment of commercial and cultural relations with all countries irrespective of regime and on a footing of reciprocal advantage.

The solidarity of all the peoples of the Middle East for the successful realisation of this programme, and so on.

The Manifesto ends with the following words:

"These demands will have the support of all honest people in the world because national independence is a guarantee of Peace which is longed for by our peoples and by all other peoples."

The writers present at the Conference issued a statement emphasising their role in the battle for the independence of the peoples of the Middle East and their Executive Committee decided to commemorate, on March 9th, the 70th anniversary of the death of the great Middle East writer, Jamal el Dinh Afgani, one of the pioneers in the struggle for liberation from Ottoman domination.

Eminent figures called the Conference

The call for the Conference was made at Teheran, on August 14th, by a group of Iranian notabilities which included General *Shafai,* a former Minister, Mr. *Abul Fadl Lissani,* a former Senator, Mr. *Mortada Sarmad,* former Director General of Finance, and Dr. *Sohrab,* Professor at the University of Teheran.

The call met with a great response in the Arab countries and a number of prominent people of widely varying political, philosophic and religious views supported it.

IN SYRIA

More than 250 distinguished personages supported the Conference, including Mr. *Said Heidar,* former President of the Council of State, former Vice-President of the Chamber of Deputies; Mr. *Mohamed Moubarek,* former Minister and one of the leaders of the Moslem Brotherhood; Mr. *Abdul Wahab Homad,* Deputy and former Minister; Mr. *Mohamed Al-Achmar,* one of the leaders of the 1925 Liberation Movement; Mr. *Mazhar Kouatli,* Vice-President of the Democratic Republican Party, Mr. *Abdul Halim Kaddour,* one of the leaders of the Party for Arab Renaissance, Mr. *Nassib Al-Assali,* barrister and member of the Party of Arab Liberation.

IN THE LEBANON

More than 50 politicians, religious leaders, barristers, journalists, economists and doctors, including Dr. *Mohamed Khaled,* President of the Lebanese National Association; M. *Kamal Jumblat,* Deputy and former Minister, President of the Progressive Socialist Party; Dr. *Machem Husseini,* Deputy and Sheik *Habid Al-Ibrahim,* Grand Mufti of the Shiites of the region of Bokaa.

OF THE RIGHTS OF THE PEOPLES
MIDDLE EAST

IN IRAQ

Hussein Jamil, Deputy, former Minister and President of the Bar Association; ***Massud Mohamed,*** Deputy; ***Mohamed Ziad Aga,*** former Deputy; Sheik ***Abdul Karim Machta,*** prominent religious leader and Member of the World Council of Peace; ***Taufit Munir,*** Vice-President of the Bar Association; and Lutfi Bakr Sidki, journalist, etc.

IN TRANSJORDAN

The list of signatories included five Deputies among whom were: ***Rashad Massawdeh, Abdul Kader Al-Saleh*** and ***Kadri Toukane,*** Deputies in the Transjordan Chamber; and ***Yahia Hammud,*** President of the Bar Association.

Others took part in its work...

In addition to many of those who signed the Call for the Conference, the following people, among others, were present.

In the Egyptian delegation: Dr. ***Ibrahim Rashad,*** former First Secretary of the Ministry of Social Affairs; Dr. ***Osman Amin,*** President of the Department of Philosophy of the University of Cairo, who spoke on behalf of Egyptian University men; ***Abdel Rahman Al-Sharkawi,*** writer, ***Hussein Arafa,*** member of the Rally of National Liberation (General Neguib's Party), ***Hussein Kamal El Din*** and ***Atia Ashur,*** Professors at the University, etc.

In the Transjordan delegation: Soleiman Pasha Soweidy, former Deputy; tribal chiefs Sheik ***Turky Bey Al-Kayed,*** Sheik ***Jablan Sayel Al-Shahwan,*** Sheik ***Ahmed Bey Hahmud; Abdel Bey Assaleh,*** Deputy, etc.

In the Iranian delegation: Professor ***Said Naficy,*** Member of the Iranian Academy.

In the Lebanese delegation: Antoine Tabet, member of the Bureau of the World Council of Peace; ***Georges Hanna,*** member of the World Council of Peace; ***Fuad Rizk,*** Vice-President of the Progressive Socialist Party; ***Ramadan Lawand,*** member of the Party of the National Appeal, etc.

In the Syrian delegation: Zeki Khatib, Deputy and former Prime Minister; ***Sami Kabbara,*** Deputy and former Minister; ***Munir Rayes,*** journalist, who made a speech on behalf of the delegation; ***Sobhi Khatib,*** President of the Federation of Syrian Trade Unions, etc.

Great response to the Conference

This Conference—the first of its kind to be held in the Middle East—met with a great response in the Arab countries and had many messages of greetings sent to it.

His Eminence the Grand Sheik ***Ibrahim Hamrouche,*** first Sheik of Islam and former President of the Azhar Mosque, the most important University of the Moslem religion, sent a message expressing his regret at being unable to attend because of poor health.

"I support this Congress," read the message, *"with all my heart and I ask God to make it a success, so that it may result in the unity of the peoples of the East in their resistance to Western imperialism and their efforts to free themselves from aerodromes and military bases."*

Another eminent religious leader, Sheik *Bayomi* of the Al-Azhar Mosque said:

"On behalf of a number of Moslem religious leaders in Egypt, I wish that God, the blessed and All-powerful, may lead you to victory in your attempts to unite the ranks of all the sons of the East, irrespective of religious, communal or racial differences... This will be our contribution, together with the other peoples of the world, to the great efforts which for many years have been made to prevent the outbreak of another world war, to establish Peace and protect mankind and civilisation from destruction and ruin."

Messages were also sent by ***Abdul Rahman Azzam,*** former General Secretary of the Arab League, ***Hussein Fahmy,*** writer and Editor of the newspaper *"Al Gumhuriyat,"* organ of General Neguib's Rally of National Liberation, and Secretary of the Egyptian journalists' union.

A letter from M. ***Abdel Wahab Homad,*** former Syrian Minister of Education, greeted the Congress in these words:

"I have pleasure in greeting your Congress at Beirut and in wishing you the success merited by its great and noble aims...

"The imperialists... seek to drag our countries into conflicts which have nothing to do with them and the disastrous consequences of which they would have to suffer.

"Arabs have no interest in any war and it is our duty to see to it that our countries resist those who call for aggression and war so that we may not become the victims of their greed and their acts of aggression."

MESSAGE FROM YOUNG EGYPTIAN DOCTORS.

The Egyptian association of young doctors sent a message in which it is stated:

"By setting up military bases in our countries, the imperialists have created an atmosphere of widespread political tension and are really preparing for world war which would annihilate modern civilisation and the human race. Shall we be content to look on with this threat hanging over us?"

Before and during the Conference, several prominent Lebanese citizens expressed their approval of its aims. M. ***Nassouh Agha Al Fadel,*** Deputy, said: *"I support the idea of the Conference because it is lofty, patriotic and practical."* His Eminence ***Abdel Hussein Sharafeddin,*** Grand Moujtahed (religious and theological head) of the Shiites, together with two other religious leaders, ***Hashem Marouf*** and ***Khalil Yassine,*** declared their agreement with the Conference.

The President of the Lebanese Chamber, ***Adel Ousseiran,*** and the Deputies, Dr. ***Salim Haidar*** and ***Georges Hrawi,*** remarked favourably on the Conference and its aims.

The Algerian observers who were to have attended the Conference were not able to come to Beirut since the French authorities refused to allow them to leave the country. ***Abderrhaman Bouchama*** and ***Smaïl Bourguida*** sent telegrams regretting their enforced absence and wishing the delegates every success.

Press support

Many newspapers of all shades of opinion in Egypt, the Lebanon, Syria and Iraq also had favourable remarks to make on the work and decisions of the Conference.

The important Egyptian review *"Rose Al Youssef"* devoted a special article to it and *"Al Gumhuriat"* sent a special correspondent to Beirut, where the Conference took place, and published many articles and commentaries. Two other important Egyptian newspapers, *"Al Misri"* and *"Al Ahram,"* also opened their columns to it.

Of Lebanese newspapers, *"Al Hadaf," "Al Shark," "Al Yom,"* and especially *"Al Telegraph"* and *"Al Farkah"* which devoted even more space to it, gave their readers favourable news on the Conference.

So also did *"Saut El Ahali,"* organ of the National Democratic Party in Iraq.

In Syria, *"Al Liwaa"* gave news and comment from which the following extract is taken:

"The will of the peoples was reflected in the Beirut Conference and its resolutions. It will be expressed again in the popular conferences which will be held, now that the Beirut Conference has shown the way. This Conference showed that the representatives of the peoples can meet and give a genuine expression of the popular will."

"Al Anbaa" of Damascus calls the Conference a "turning point in the history of the Middle East" and the review, *"Al Sarkah,"* speaks of an "awakening of the peoples." The newspaper, *"Al Tahrir Al-Arabi,"* organ of the party of the same name, which is now in power in Syria, printed the manifesto and the resolution in full. So did *"Al Yom."*

IN BRAZIL WIDE SECTIONS OF PUBLIC OPINION STAND FOR PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL DISPUTES

The National Referendum which has been going on in Brazil since September 1953 has enabled wide sections of the Brazilian people to declare themselves in favour of agreement between States and for the peaceful settlement of international differences.

In the recent period more organisations and public figures have spoken in support of this campaign of the Brazilian Peace Movement or along similar lines.

Trade union leaders

Since the trade union leader, *Astrogildo Ramos,* said: *"It is a highly patriotic step. Every citizen who loves his country must support the Referendum for agreement between the nations and vote for Peace,"* the President of the Confederation of Workers, leaders of national trade unions and leaders of Rio de Janeiro trade unions as important as those of the City Transport Workers and of the Food Workers, have issued calls to the working class to take part in the Referendum. This has also been done by trade union leaders in Sao Paolo, as for instance by those of the Metalworkers' Union. The latest to do so are thirteen Trade Union leaders of the State of Espirito Santo, who have signed an appeal for the peaceful solution of international differences.

Churchmen and students

The Methodist Church, in the person of one of its prominent leaders, Bishop *Cesar Dacorso,* has already signified its approval of the Referendum. And from Sao Luiz, capital of the State of Maranhao, comes the voice of a Catholic priest, Father *Artur Lopez Goncalves: "I am in favour of peaceful agreements to settle international differences."*

Two important student organisations, the Metropolitan Union of Students of the Federal District and the Extraordinary Students' Congress of the State of Bahia, encouraged young students to take part in the Referendum.

Representatives of the People

Finally, the campaign has made itself felt in political circles. In a declaration of their own, the majority of Deputies of the Federal Chamber pointed out that *"there is no international issue in dispute which cannot be resolved by negotiation, understanding and agreement between the countries concerned."* The Deputies who signed this declaration belong both to the parties of the Government coalition—the Brazilian Labour Party (the party of General Vargas), and the Social-Democratic Party—and to the National Democratic Union.

Many members of State Legislative Assemblies and Municipal Councils have taken up a similar position. The majority of the Municipal Councillors of Anapolis and Recife, and the Deputies of the Legislative Assemblies of the States of Pernambuco and Espirito Santo had already voted in favour of the Referendum; and now, a short while ago, the Municipal Council of the important town of Petropolis voted in favour with only one vote against.

Deputies of President Vargas' Party in the Federal Assembly came in person to the headquarters of the Peace Movement to cast their vote on the Referendum.

For a revival of trade with all nations

There is also a strong trend of opinion in Brazil which favours the re-establishment of normal commercial relations with the People's Republic of China, the Soviet Union and the countries of People's Democracy.

All strata of the Brazilian people, who are finding the economic crisis becoming daily more intolerable, are interested in this demand which was put forward in the first place by the Brazilian Peace Movement. Today, politicians in Government circles, including certain Ministers, declare themselves in favour and Press organs of the Government majority have started a campaign along the same lines. For example, the newspaper, *"Ultima Hora,"* opened its columns to a group of Senators and Deputies to the Federal Assembly. Among the latter are *Nestor* and *Samuel Duarte,* both well known in Brazil; the former include the younger *Artur Bernardes, Kerginaldo Cavalcanti* and *Mozart Lago.* All support the re-establishment of commercial relations between Brazil and the Soviet Union.

The Bulletin of the Brazilian Peace Movement quotes other statements in support of this demand made by Members of Parliament and many prominent persons. They include the President and five Deputies of the Legislative Assembly of Parana; the Vice-Governor of the same State; the President of the Municipal Council of Curitiba; the Municipal Councillors of Nilopolis; the Director of the Commercial Association of Rio de Janeiro representing a big commercial firm and a group of Managing Directors of industrial and commercial businesses; and the President of the Rural Association of Saõ José do Rio Preto in the State of Saõ Paolo, etc.

In a Manifesto issued on December 31st 1953 and signed by its President, *Abel Chermont,* the Brazilian Peace Movement takes note of the wide support given to its campaigns by representative sections of public opinion.

The Manifesto sets the tasks for the Peace Movement and ends: *"The World Council of Peace proposes that an International Meeting be held in 1954 permitting the free confrontation of all view-points on the possibility of the peaceful settlement of international differences. All organisations and citizens, desiring an easing of international tension should take part in this meeting.*

"The Brazilian Peace Movement fully agrees with this proposal and will do all in its power to make the Meeting a success in Brazil."

Campaign in Uruguay for a negotiated solution of international differences

A campaign for the negotiated solution of international differences is now being conducted in Uruguay. It was launched by the National Peace Council with the support of the General Workers' Union.

Among the most recent organisations to join the campaign are the Housewives' Conference, called by the Women's Union, and the Leather Workers' Union. The Congress of Metal Workers and Engineers included in its programme the annulment of the Uruguay-USA bilateral military pact, the negotiated solutions of international differences and agreement between the Five Great Powers.

The football teams "Singer Athletics" and "Tiger Athletic" made a public announcement of their support for the National Peace Council's campaign before beginning a match.

Lastly, a great signature campaign has been launched by Peace Committees in the working class parts of Montevideo.

On his return from the Vienna Session of the World Council of Peace

Snr. Baltasar CASTRO

President of the Chamber of Deputies

IS RECEIVED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHILE

On returning from his travels in Europe, during which he took part in the Vienna Session of the World Council of Peace and visited the Soviet Union, Snr. *Baltasar Castro,* President of the Chilean Chamber of Deputies and member of the World Council of Peace, was received by the President of the Republic. He gave the leader of the Republic of Chile an account of the Vienna Session and of the possibilities of establishing trade relations between the Soviet Union and Chile.

At the headquarters of the Chilean Peace Movement he made a report on the work of the World Council to a big audience. He said that, there, "Chile spoke for America, strangled by foreign domination. We were listened to because the tradition of struggle of our miners, men of the pampas, peasants, women and students, has won great prestige for our country."

NATIONAL PEACE CONFERENCE IN SWEDEN CALLS ON ALL FRIENDS OF PEACE TO JOIN FORCES

The national conference of the Swedish Peace Committee opened in Stockholm on January 10th under the chairmanship of Mr. Hjalmar Wermer and Mr. Humbert Hammarberg.

In addition to the delegates from local committees all over Sweden, this important conference was attended by many personalities representing the many pacifist organisations of the country. The conference adopted a resolution greeting the World Council of Peace's decision "to launch an Appeal to all Organisations and Personalities Desiring A Relaxation of International Tension for the holding of a great International Meeting in the near future."

"Sweden and its Peace-loving people," the resolution goes on, *"could do great things for world Peace by maintaining a policy of absolute neutrality.*

"The Swedish Peace Committee would welcome the holding of the meeting in Sweden as far as conditions permit.

"In order that the Meeting may gain the maximum support in Sweden, the Swedish Peace Committee calls on all local Peace Committees and all organisations and friends of Peace to join forces in arousing a powerful trend of opinion for:

The banning of weapons of mass destruction.

The peaceful solution of the German problem to allow the creation of a united, independent and democratic Germany and guaranteeing the peoples of Europe against the revival of German militarism.

The admission of the People's Republic of China to UNO, the first step towards ensuring Peace through Five-Power negotiation.

The expansion of trade and cultural relations with other countries.

"In order to win the widest support, the conference recommends the organisation of public meetings and petitions, the obtaining of declarations of support and the adoption of any other form of action for a broad mobilisation of public opinion, taking local conditions into account.

"The conference also recommends the holding of regional Peace Conferences and expresses its hope for closer co-operation between the Peace Movements of the Nordic countries."

Among those who took part in the conference were: Mme. *Isabelle Blume,* Belgian Secretary of the World Council of Peace; Mme. *Andrea Andreen,* member of the World Council of Peace and *Bengt Gunnäs,* Secretary of the Swedish Peace Committee. The writers, *Sekel Nordenstrand* and *Peter Mathis,* Professor *Yngve Björnstam, Dr. Lars Ehrenberg* and Mr. *Torsten Lindqvist* were present as were also Mrs. *Greta Engkvist* who plays an eminent role in Swedish pacifist organisations and Mr. *Herman Backman,* Secretary of the Swedish Quakers.

FIFTY-FOUR PUBLIC FIGURES IN INDONESIA CALL NATIONAL PEACE CONGRESS

In Indonesia, a National Peace Congress was held in Djakarta on January 24th on the initiative of a sponsoring committee composed of 54 well known Indonesian public figures in politics, religion, culture, education, and in the peasant and trade union movements.

The Committee also included 13 Members of Parliament amongst whom were:

Arudji Kartawinata, second Vice-President of the Parliament and President of the "Sjarikat Islam Party of Indonesia;"

Dr. *Djody Gondokusumo,* Minister of Justice and member of the "National Rakjat Party;"

Professor *S. M. Abidin,* Minister of Labour, member of the "Buruh Party;"

Otto Rondonuwu, Deputy of the P.N.I.;

Mr. *Padang,* Independent Deputy;

Mrs. *Rasuna Said,* member of the Peace Liaison Committee for the Asian and Pacific Regions, PSII Deputy;

K. Werdojo, trade union leader and "Buruh Party" Deputy;

Sidik Kertapati, leader of the Sakti Peasants' United Front, and Deputy;

Professor *Prijono,* historian and professor in the Djakarta Arts' Faculty and Professor *Purbodiningrat,* economist and Professor at the Gadjah Faculty, were also members of the Sponsoring Committee.

The call for the Congress states:

"... The most recent events have given rise to hope and have shown the possibility of settling all differences between nations through peaceful negotiations based on justice, mutual respect and understanding of the opinions, beliefs and political ideas of others."

The Congress was preceded by local and regional Peace Conferences at Semarang, Pemalang, Tegal, Solo, Jogjakarta, Sumbaja, Lamongan, Malang and so on.

At Bandoeng, Djakarta and Belikpapan, the oil centre, these conferences were markedly successful. The local Peace Committees of the islands of Sumatra and Sulawesi were also very active in the preparation of the Congress.

Lastly, in addition to the Peace Committees, various trade unions and peasant, women's, youth, student and other cultural organisations carried out intense propaganda for the Congress. Of the big unions which declared support for the Congress at official meetings, we may mention the Agricultural Workers' Union (Serbuksi), the Oilworkers' Union (Perbum), the Sugar Workers' Union (SBG), the Tobacco Workers' Union (SBRI), the Coconut-oil workers' Union, the West Java district of the Public Servants' Union and the Autonomous Regional Trade Union (Sebda).

*

Statements in favour of a Five Power Conference in Canada...

A resolution adopted by the 18th Congress of the Saskatchewan Branch of the "Canada Commonwealth Federation", which took place in mid-November, states that *"the Canadian Government should work hard for a Meeting of the Five Great Powers ..."*

"Lasting Peace and the end of the Cold War," the resolution continues, *"are essentially dependent on strict agreements between the Great Powers."*

The resolution also demands an agreement on the reduction of armaments and for the prohibition of rearmament in Germany and Japan.

In Calgary, the annual Congress of the Labour Federation of Alberta, which is affiliated to the Canadian Labour Party, made a similar call for a meeting of the Five Great Powers and, in another resolution, demanded that atom bombs be made illegal.

... and in Trinidad

The Peace Committees of Trinidad and Tobago and British Guiana have jointly issued an Appeal for a Pact of Peace between the Five Great Powers and the collection of signatures began immediately.

During a meeting held in the Town Hall of San Fernando (Trinidad), a number of citizens, including an Indian Municipal Councillor, a businessman, a trade union secretary, the Secretary of the Peace Committee and two leaders of the West Indian Independence Party, announced their support for the Trinidad and Tobago Peace Committee.

A MESSAGE FROM THE WORLD COUNCIL OF PEACE TO ALL ORGANISATIONS AND PERSONALITIES DESIRING A RELAXATION OF INTERNATIONAL TENSION

The armistice concluded in Korea has given an uneasy world the hope at last of seeing a decrease in tension between the Great Powers. But the negotiations have come up against fresh obstacles.

Agreement is proving difficult on other questions of vital importance to the Peace of the world.

Yet the peoples long for a relaxation of international tension. The economic shackles and political pressures accompanying this tension are becoming increasingly difficult to bear.

We believe it is possible to rescue the world from this condition.

Today, a wide range of political and social forces in all countries are working for an improvement in international relations.

New voices among eminent men of science, religion and politics are raised in condemnation of the use of weapons of mass extermination. Public opinion is becoming alarmed at the growing accumulation of armaments of all types.

All reasonable people appreciate that it is not possible to settle problems of world importance or guarantee implementation of any agreement made, without the participation of the Government of the People's Republic of China.

Responsible representatives of all political groups in most of the countries of Western Europe have made a public stand against the revival of German militarism in any form.

In these circumstances, we think an opportunity should be given for all organisations or personalities who are striving for the relaxation of international tension, to concentrate their efforts on this question. Our own viewpoint on the problem is set out in the resolution passed in Vienna by the World Council of Peace on November 28th, 1953.

Joint preparation for a meeting allowing the free exchange of all viewpoints and the study of possible solutions is now needed.

An international meeting of this nature, held as soon as possible, would in itself be an important factor in the relaxation of international tension.

(Vienna, November 23rd-28th 1953)

[WORLD PEACE COUNCIL]

WORLD COUNCIL OF PEACE

SECRETARIAT

PALAIS SIA PRAGUE
cr.

Prague, February 9th, 1954.

Professor W.E.B. DU BOIS
United States

Dear Friend,

As you know, the World Council of Peace, at its last session in Vienna in November 1953, adopted a "Message to Organisations and Personalities Desiring a Relaxation of International Tension", proposing the joint preparation and holding of an International Meeting in 1954.

This new step entails making numerous contacts and exchanging views with the public figures, organisations and groupings outside the Movement in every country who are speaking or taking action for an International détente and who would be likely to declare themselves in favour of the proposed Meeting.

Bearing in mind your many connections both nationally and internationally, we thought we might ask you to approach certain of your friends or certain public figures with whom you are in touch - especially persons who represent the people of Africa - in order to acquaint them with the World Council's intention in taking such a step. We are therefore taking the liberty of sending you a number of copies of the World Council's Message and of the General Resolution which contains its views on the settlement of the differences dividing the world. We are, of course, ready if necessary to send you further copies.

In this way, a number of organisations and public figures known to you may be persuaded to declare their support for the Meeting.

As you know, the World Council has no intention of laying down any preconditions for holding a meeting of this character, nor of deciding, on its own, how the meeting shall be conducted. It is therefore indispensable that there should be expressions of opinion by authoritative persons on how the Meeting is to be convened, the procedure to be adopted and the order of business and that these

should be brought to our knowledge as soon as possible. For this reason we should be grateful to you if you would make an approach along these lines to people who you think would be likely to take a stand. If any of them should want to have preliminary talks or further particulars, you could ask them to make direct contact with the World Council in the person of its President.

Further, the great response to your Message to the people of Africa at the time of the Congress of the Peoples encourages us to ask you to take a similar step today. There is no doubt that a message from you calling on the qualified representatives of the peoples of Africa to support the idea of an International Meeting would greatly help the preparation of the Meeting there. If you were to agree to this proposal you could send us your message and we should take it upon ourselves to disseminate it in Africa.

We are aware of your many commitments and apologise for imposing upon you in this way. But we are sure that your intervention will bring excellent results in view of the influence you command, particularly in Africa.

Hoping that you will be able to respond favourably to our requests and thanking you in advance, we are

Yours sincerely,

For the Secretariat of the
World Council of Peace

Jean LAFFITTE
General Secretary

GENERAL RESOLUTION OF THE WORLD COUNCIL OF PEACE

The Budapest Appeal for negotiation, launched by the World Council of Peace, has had profound repercussions and has won the widest support. As a result of this campaign, the idea of settling international differences by agreements acceptable to all is daily winning ground and bearing fruit.

In Korea, the ending of hostilities was a victory for the cause of Peace.

On Germany, the latest exchange of Notes between the Great Powers proves that the holding of a Four Power Conference in the near future is possible.

On Indochina, the idea of a cease-fire and a peaceful settlement is making progress both in France and Viet-Nam.

But the forces opposed to the easing of international tension are using the word "negotiation" to veil plans for prolonging the Cold War. It is not employing negotiation, for one side to confront the other with accomplished facts; it is not desiring negotiation, to seek to create conditions which must make it fail.

In both Asia and Europe there are situations and conflicts which represent a special danger to World Peace.

In Korea, negotiations are in danger. The attempt to exclude neutral nations, especially India, from a Political Conference dealing with specifically Asian interests, can wreck the negotiations. The peoples will not allow hostilities in Korea to be resumed.

The interests of European security demand the earliest possible settlement of the German problem. This settlement is only possible by agreement between the Four Powers - the United States, the USSR, Great Britain and France. The main obstacle which stands in the way of this agreement is the intention of one side to rebuild German militarism and to bring Germany into a war coalition directed against the other.

The World Council of Peace calls upon the peoples of Europe to prevent the ratification of the "European Army" treaties and the revival of German militarism in any shape or form. This would open the way to a Four Power agreement on the German problem - an agreement that would offer the German people the prospect of a peaceful future and give all the peoples of Europe a guarantee against the revival of aggressive forces in Germany.

The war between France and Viet-Nam, which has been raging for seven years, can only be ended by direct negotiations between the belligerents.

The World Council of Peace welcomes the proposal made in this direction by the Vietnamese delegation and supported by the Chinese delegation. This proposal, to which the French delegation made a favourable reply, could serve as a basis for a settlement.

The World Council of Peace has always maintained that foreign interference, occupation by foreign troops and the establishment of military bases on foreign soil, constitute a threat both to the peoples' independence and to Peace.

Such a policy is being extended in the Near and Middle East, Latin America and Africa. In Europe it is exemplified particularly in the plan for the European Defence Community and the installation of atomic bases in Spain; in Asia, in the shape of foreign occupation, in the intensified re-armament of Japan and in the attempts of the United States to set up military bases in Pakistan. This latest effort threatens to create a war psychosis amongst hundreds of millions of people in yet another part of the world.

The armaments drive and the manufacture of ever more powerful weapons of mass destruction impose an intolerable burden on the world and constitute a terrible menace.

The World Council of Peace has drawn the attention of the world to this problem by its campaign for the Stockholm Appeal and its Warsaw resolutions. It regrets that the United Nations Organisation has not yet reached agreement on these matters and hopes that efforts to bring about the absolute prohibition of atomic and biological weapons and a substantial reduction of all armaments under effective control will continue.

Finally, the World Council of Peace emphasises that, whilst negotiation must be applied to each particular problem, it considers, as it always has, that a Five Power Conference is still the best method for achieving a relaxation of international tension.

The Conference would be able, on the initiative of any of the Powers, to take up any problem felt to be a cause of international tension and to seek general agreements acceptable to all.

The persistent refusal to grant the People's Republic of China her rightful place in the councils of the world is an obstacle to this Five Power Conference. This refusal is contrary to the interests of all States and is judged more and more severely by world opinion.

The Charter of the United Nations gives the peoples an instrument able to bring about a lasting Peace and it is for the peoples to see that it is respected. The infringements of the Charter have plunged the world into great difficulties. A return to the letter and the spirit of the Charter would help the peoples to ensure their security and independence. It would allow real co-operation between the nations in developing their economic resources, their wellbeing and their culture.

The anxiety and fear, the poverty and the difficulties of everyday life inflicted upon the peoples by the Cold War and the armaments drive, can and must be eliminated by the action of the peoples.

In the last resort, Peace depends upon the people.

Vienna, November 28th, 1953.

A MESSAGE FROM THE WORLD COUNCIL OF PEACE TO ALL ORGANISATIONS AND PERSONALITIES DESIRING A RELAXATION OF INTERNATIONAL TENSION

The armistice concluded in Korea has given an uneasy world the hope at last of seeing a decrease in tension between the Great Powers. But the negotiations have come up against fresh obstacles.

Agreement is proving difficult on other questions of vital importance to the Peace of the world.

Yet the peoples long for a relaxation of international tension. The economic shackles and political pressures accompanying this tension are becoming increasingly difficult to bear.

We believe it is possible to rescue the world from this condition.

Today, a wide range of political and social forces in all countries are working for an improvement in international relations.

New voices among eminent men of science, religion and politics are raised in condemnation of the use of weapons of mass extermination. Public opinion is becoming alarmed at the growing accumulation of armaments of all types.

All reasonable people appreciate that it is not possible to settle problems of world importance or guarantee implementation of any agreement made, without the participation of the Government of the People's Republic of China.

Responsible representatives of all political groups in most of the countries of Western Europe have made a public stand against the revival of German militarism in any form.

In these circumstances, we think an opportunity should be given for all organisations or personalities who are striving for the relaxation of international tension, to concentrate their efforts on this question. Our own viewpoint on the problem is set out in the resolution passed in Vienna by the World Council of Peace on November 28th, 1953.

Joint preparation for a meeting allowing the free exchange of all viewpoints and the study of possible solutions is now needed.

An international meeting of this nature, held as soon as possible, would in itself be an important factor in the relaxation of international tension.

Vienna, November 28th, 1953.

WORLD COUNCIL
OF PEACE

SECRETARIAT

PALAIS SIA PRAGUE
A.G.

Prague, 18th February, 1954.

Professor W.E.B. Du Bois
U.S.A.

Dear Friend,

Recently we received copies of the Appeal to the people of the United States which was sponsored by a number of eminent Americans. We would like to express our appreciation of this new contribution to securing public support for efforts to improve international relations.

May we take this opportunity of wishing you every success in your patriotic work for Peace.

No doubt you already know of the proposals made at the November session of the World Council of Peace for an International Meeting, to be prepared in common by eminent people from all countries and representatives of all groups seeking a relaxation of international tension.

It is not possible yet to say what the agenda will be, since this will be decided by those who eventually join together to sponsor the meeting. Discussions, for the most part informal, are taking place with a variety of persons and organisations in different countries. In this way the problems which different people would like to see discussed, their views on how the meeting should be prepared and what form it should take are being clarified. At the same time, in the course of the discussion it is possible to obtain agreement from different people to take part in the meeting and, in some cases, to act as sponsors.

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Those who are taking part in these preparatory discussions emphasise repeatedly the importance of a first rate American contribution to these preparations and to the meeting. Naturally, therefore, it is important to know the views of eminent people in America with whom these questions have been discussed and the possibilities of those who are likely to attend.

No definite date has been fixed but there seems to be a strong inclination in favour of holding the Meeting towards the end of May or at the beginning of June.

In view of the stage these preparations have reached, we are particularly anxious to have an early answer to this letter, so that we can know what stage the discussions have reached in America and have your view of the problems.

Yours very sincerely,

For the Secretariat of the
World Council of Peace

Roy Gore

Roy Gore
Secretary

Jean Laffitte

~~Jean Laffitte~~
General Secretary